WIKIPEDIA 25
25 years of the free encyclopedia

Mojtaba Khamenei

Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei[d] (born 8 September 1969) is an Iranian politician and Shia cleric who is the third supreme leader of Iran since 8 March 2026. A member of the Khamenei family and the second son of the second supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, he effectively served as the deputy chief of staff to his father as supreme leader, overseeing access to the latter's office, and all political and security affairs.

Born in Mashhad into the Azeri–Persian Khamenei family, he was nine when his father emerged as a leading figure in the Iranian Revolution. He received early education in Sardasht and Mahabad, and graduated high school from Tehran; after which, he studied Islamic theology under the guidance of his father and Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi. He joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in 1987 and served in the Iran–Iraq War. In 1999, he continued his studies in Qom to become a cleric, and joined the Qom Seminary as a theological teacher afterwards. He took control of the Basij paramilitary volunteer militia in 2009.

Following the assassination of his father in the 2026 Iran war, Mojtaba was elected as his successor by Iran's Assembly of Experts. He has previously been sanctioned by the United States Department of the Treasury in 2019 as part of their policy of sanctioning individuals linked to Ali Khamenei.[3][4]

In political ideology and jurisprudence, he is considered to be among the most hardline of the Iranian principlists, and has close ties to some of the "most ideologically extremist clerics" per a report from Atlantic Council.[5] Analysts have generally seen him as more favorable to developing an Iranian nuclear weapons program than his father,[6] supporting a reinterpretation of Ali Khamenei's fatwa against nuclear weapons.

Grand Ayatollah

Seyyed

Mojtaba Khamenei

مجتبی خامنه‌ای

Formal portrait, 2026

3rd Supreme Leader of Iran	
Incumbent	
Assumed office	
8 March 2026	
President	Masoud Pezeshkian
Preceded by	Ali Khamenei[a]
Deputy Chief of Staff to the Supreme Leader (Political and Security Affairs)	
In office	
21 August 2008[b] – 8 March 2026	
Supreme Leader	Ali Khamenei (1997–2026) Interim Leadership Council (2026)
Chief of Staff	Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani
Preceded by	*Position established*
Personal details	

Early life and education

Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei was born on 8 September 1969 in Mashad, the second child of Ali Khamenei and Mansoureh Khojasteh Bagherzadeh.[7][8] His five siblings are Mostafa, his elder brother, Masoud and Meysam, his younger brothers, and Boshra and Hoda, his younger sisters. His paternal grandfather, Javad Khamenei, was a poor and low-income but deeply respected Shia cleric and scholar.[9]

Khamenei has Persian ancestry, but to a lesser extent, Azeri ancestry, with his Azeri roots being traced back to Khamaneh, a small town in East Azerbaijan where his surname originated from, and he also has distant roots from Tafresh.[10][11] His family traces its lineage to Husayn ibn Ali, the son of Ali, the first Shia Imam, and the maternal grandson of Prophet Muhammad, hence Khamenei's middle name Hosseini (spelled Husayni in Arabic; meaning "descendant of Husayn").[12]

His childhood coincided with his father emerging as a leading revolutionary against the Iranian monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.[13] During that time, he spent seven years in the cities of Sardasht and Mahabad in northwest Iran, where he received his early education.[14][15] After graduating from Alavi high school (in Tehran),[16] he studied Islamic theology. His early teachers included his own father and Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi.[7]

Early political career

He also first joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps around 1987 after finishing high school at age 17.[16] He was part of the Habib bin Muzahir Battalion.[17] He took part in several operations, including Operation Beit ol-Moqaddas 2, Operation Dawn 10 and Operation Mersad.[18]

In 1999, Khamenei continued his studies in Qom to become a cleric. Mohammad-Taqi Mesbah-Yazdi, Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpaygani and Mohammad Bagher Kharazi were his teachers there.[7][19]

Born	Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei 8 September 1969 Mashhad, Iran
Spouse	Zahra Haddad-Adel (m. 1999; died 2026)
Children	3[c]
Parents	Ali Khamenei Mansoureh Khojasteh Bagherzadeh
Relatives	Khamenei family
Education	Qom Seminary
Political affiliation	Front of Islamic Revolution Stability (patron)[2]
Signature	
Military service	
Allegiance	Iran
Branch/service	Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
Years of service	1987–1988 (Ground Forces) 2009–2026 (Basij)
Unit	27th Mohammad Rasulullah Division (1987–1988)
Commands	Basij (*de facto*) Intelligence Organization *(staffing; de facto)* Intelligence Protection Organization *(staffing; de facto)*
Battles/wars	Iran–Iraq War Operation Beit ol-Moqaddas 2 Operation Beit ol-Moqaddas 4 Operation Dawn 10 Operation Mersad Green Revolution Mahsa Amini protests 2026 Iran war
Religious life	

Religion	Islam
Denomination	Twelver Shi'a
Jurisprudence	Ja'fari
Creed	Usuli

By 21 August 2008, *WikiLeaks* leaked a diplomatic cable from the United States embassy in London, alleging Khamenei was working alongside and under the mentorship of Asghar Hejazi, who is the Political and Security Deputy to his father's office. He was reportedly ranked immediately under Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani, who was chief of staff. In his role, Khamenei was alleged to have significant control over access to his father, and accompanied him on official engagements throughout Iran. His father would regularly consult him, and Khamenei oversee all political and security affairs that are under the purview of the Supreme Leader, being briefed by former IRGC chief of staff Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr and commander Mohammad Ali Jafari. He was also said to be close to former Tehran mayor, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who he politically advises, finances, and logistically supports.[20]

Khamenei (second to left) with his three brothers, from left to right: Mostafa, Masoud, and Meysam

In 2009, it was reported that Khamenei had assumed leadership of the Basij.[21] Reformist critics blamed him for suppressing the protests over the 2009 presidential election.[22] *The Guardian* argued that "The strength of Mojtaba's following has not been demonstrated", and while he wears clerical robes he "by no means has the theological status" to rise to Supreme Leader.[23]

In 2023, *Iran International* published leaked reports from the IRGC, revealing that Khamenei effectively controlled the Basij and excercised significant influence over the assignment and dismissal of personnel in their Intelligence and Intelligence Protection Organizations.[24]

Supreme Leadership

Nomination

Several analysts considered Mojtaba as a possible successor to his father.[23][25] This was thought by some to present a problem, for the Supreme Leader needs to be elected by the Assembly of Experts from among senior Shia Islamic scholars, but it has been noted that the inaugural Supreme Leader, Ruhollah Khomeini, exerted a strong influence in favour of the choice of Khamenei's father,[26] and unconfirmed reports stated that Ali Khamenei had opposed nominating his son as successor.[27][28][29]

The Iranian constitution dictates the adherence to Khomeini's interpretation of the principle of Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (*velayat-e faqih*).[30] According to this interpretation, the Supreme Leader must be a Mujtahid, capable of interpreting Sharia law,[31] and have attained the highest level of Shia clergy.[30] As a Source of Emulation (*marja e-taghlid*) he is required to hold the rank of Grand Ayatollah or Imam, stand at the helm of a religious seminary (*Hawza*) and issue decrees on the practice of Sharia law are which are observed by followers and clergy of lower rank.[30] Mojtaba is a Hojjatoleslam, a rank below Ayatollah,[32] nor is he a Mujtahed, and he lacks the executive and administrative experience required by the constitution of the Islamic Republic.[33]

During the presidency of Ebrahim Raisi, Mojtaba was one of the clerics speculated as a possible successor as supreme leader.[34][35] However, he was considered unlikely to succeed his father.[36][37][38] The Middle East Institute opined that Khamenei appointing his own son as successor would cause conflict within the Iranian political and religious leadership,[39] as it would be a sign that the revolutionary Islamic system of government had evolved to dynastic rule.[40] Shia theological principles prohibit such a succession, and both Mojtaba and previous Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei have voiced their opposition to it.[41]

Election

Mojtaba Khamenei was considered one of the likely candidates to replace his father as the new Supreme Leader.[42][43][44][45] According to *Iran International*, Mojtaba Khamenei is preferred by the IRGC, which pressured Assembly of Experts members to elect him on 3 March, by "in-person meetings and phone calls", on the internet it was rumored that he was Supreme Leader already since the 3 March, which was false.[46][47] There was strong opposition from some members of the council,[48] including eight who stated that they would boycott a second online electoral meeting planned for 5 March.[47] On 5 March 2026, US president Donald Trump responded to the reports that Mojtaba Khamenei is tipped for election by saying: "They are wasting their time. Khamenei's son is a lightweight. I have to be involved in the appointment".[49] Trump also said that the selection of Khamenei is "unacceptable".[50]

On 8 March 2026, the 88-person Assembly of Experts announced that Khamenei was elected Supreme Leader in a "decisive vote".[51][52][53]

Political and religious views

Khamenei is considered aligned with ultraconservatives among Iranian principlists. He is a devotee of and heavily informed by the views of Taqi Yazdi, being a patron of the latter's party, the Front for Islamic Revolution Stability.[54][55] According to the *Atlantic Council*, he is closely associated with those who hold fundamentalist and Mahdist views.[56] Mehmet Ozalp stated in *The Conversation* that, following Mojtaba Khamenei's election, he "[might] lean more heavily on the might of the IRGC" than his father did.[57] *The Daily Telegraph* predicted that he would view the United States as "implacable enemy" and would be likely to escalate the conflict and unlikely to make any compromises.[58]

Khamenei in 2019

Support for Ahmadinejad

Khamenei was affiliated with Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,[26] and supported Ahmadinejad in the 2005 and 2009 controversial presidential elections.[59][32] Journalists stated that he may "have played a leading role in orchestrating" Ahmadinejad's electoral victory in 2009.[23][7]

Khamenei was speculated to have been "a key figure" in orchestrating the crackdown against anti-government protesters in June 2009.[60] He was believed to have been directly in charge of the paramilitary Basij, a blackout of his name in the regime press notwithstanding.[23]

During the 2009 protests, protesters accused Ali Khamenei of paving the way for the inheritance of the Leadership and the preparation of Mojtaba Khamenei,[61] Following these matters, the slogan "Mojtaba may you die, and not see the leadership" or "Mojtaba die, may you not take the leadership" was chanted by the protesters in the protests on 9 July 2009 in Tehran.[62][63][64]

In an open letter, Mehdi Karroubi, a reformist candidate in the 2009 election, accused Mojtaba Khamenei of conspiring to rig the election in Ahmadinejad's favor, referring to illegal interference of "a network".[65]

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad later accused Mojtaba Khamenei of embezzling from the state treasury.[66]

Nuclear weapons policy

Several American analysts have described Mojtaba was a supporter of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons, in opposition to his father's *fatwa* against them. According to The Washington Institute For Near East Policy, Mojtaba "may decide that Iran must move quickly to obtain nuclear weapons in order to forestall future U.S. and Israeli attacks. Whether this approach stablizes the regime or accelerates fragmentation, it will shape the next phase of the conflict."[67]

Personal life

Mojtaba teaches theology in the Qom Seminary.[68] He married Zahra Haddad-Adel, a daughter of Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel,[69][70] in 1999.[71][72] Their first child was born in 2007.[73] The first son is Mohamed Amin, followed by daughter Fatemeh Sadaat, and second son Mohamed Bagher.

According to the Iranian government in 2026, his wife, his parents, and one of his sons were killed in the US–Israeli strikes.[74][75][76]

Mojtaba Khamenei and his children on Quds Day in 2018

Being in silence

Khamenei has not been giving public lectures, Friday sermons, or political addresses – to the point that many Iranians have not heard his voice, despite knowing for years that he was a star rising within the theocratic establishment.[22]

Mojtaba Khamenei and other members of the Qom Seminary, March 2016

Ties within the IRGC

Khamenei for decades had been a highly influential figure in the inner circle of his father, the previous supreme leader, cultivating deep ties to the paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), wielding the IRGC's Basij force to

crack down on peaceful protesters during the Iranian Green Movement of 2009. Prior to him becoming the supreme leader, for nearly two decades, local and foreign-based democracy activists had linked his name to the violent suppression of Iranian protesters.[22]

Wealth

Mojtaba Khamenei is widely believed to control significant financial assets in banks such as Bank Ayandeh.[66][77]

A year-long investigation by *Bloomberg*, citing assessments from people familiar with the matter, reported in January 2026 that Khamenei is linked to an offshore financial network used to hold and move assets outside Iran. The reported holdings include high-value real estate in London and Dubai, as well as interests connected to shipping, banking relationships, and hospitality assets in Europe. According to the investigation, the assets were generally not held in Khamenei's name but structured through intermediaries and layered corporate entities across multiple jurisdictions. Some of these assets have since been sold or restructured amid increased scrutiny.[78]

Bloomberg identified Ali Ansari, an Iranian businessman sanctioned by the United Kingdom, as a central alleged facilitator in the network. Property records and corporate filings reportedly link Ansari and associated companies to several London properties, including residences on The Bishops Avenue, and to hotel ownership and management entities in Germany and other countries. Ansari has denied any financial or personal relationship with Khamenei and has stated that he intends to challenge the UK sanctions.[78]

The investigations further alleged that funds linked to the network largely originated from Iranian oil revenues and were routed through financial institutions in multiple jurisdictions, despite international sanctions imposed on Mojtaba Khamenei in 2019.[78]

On 14 January 2026, during the 2025–2026 Iranian protests, US Treasury Department Secretary Scott Bessent announced that "millions and tens of millions" of dollars have been wired by Iran's leaders to financial institutions worldwide, and Israel's Channel 14 reported that $1.5 billion in cryptocurrency had been sent to an account in Dubai with the involvement of Khamenei (who alone sent approximately $328 million).[79]

Sanctions

In 2019, Mojtaba Khamenei was placed under US sanctions for acting in place of the Supreme Leader without ever being elected or appointed to any official position[80] and for working closely with the commander of the Quds Force, responsible for "covert operations including lethal aid, intelligence, financing, and training" of the Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Popular Mobilization Forces Iraq and others;[81] and for fostering close ties with the Basij paramilitary group as well as advancing "his father's destabilizing regional ambitions and oppressive domestic objectives."[80]

Notes

a. Between Ali Khamenei's death on 28 February and Mojtaba Khamenei's election on 8 March, the Interim Leadership Council was tasked with handing the duties of the supreme

leader.[1]

b. This was the earliest alleged date he served in this position. The actual day, month, and year of his appointment is not known.

c. 1 deceased.

d. Persian: مجتبی حسینی خامنه‌ای, romanized: *Mojtabā Hoseyni Xāmene'i*, pronounced [modʒtʰæ'bɒː hosejˈniː xɒːmeneˈʔiː]

References

1. Reals, Tucker (1 March 2026). "Iran names three men for interim Leadership Council to pick next supreme leader" (https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/us-iran-war-israel-supreme-leader-khamenei-funeral-day-2/). *CBS News*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20260301140937/https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/us-iran-war-israel-supreme-leader-khamenei-funeral-day-2/) from the original on 1 March 2026. Retrieved 1 March 2026.
2. "Mojtaba Khamenei: The shadow prince who rose to became Iran's supreme leader" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603083539). Iran International. 8 March 2026. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
3. "Treasury Designates Supreme Leader of Iran's Inner Circle Responsible for Advancing Regime's Domestic and Foreign Oppression | U.S. Department of the Treasury" (https://web.archive.org/web/20191106094042/https://home.treasury.gov/index.php/news/press-releases/sm824). *home.treasury.gov*. Archived from the original (https://home.treasury.gov/index.php/news/press-releases/sm824) on 6 November 2019. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
4. "Guards push fast Mojtaba Khamenei announcement amid dissent over hereditary rule" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603052337). *www.iranintl.com*. 5 March 2026. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
5. Walker, Josephine (8 March 2026). "Iran's next supreme leader: Khamenei's hardline son Mojtaba" (https://www.axios.com/2026/03/08/mojtaba-khamenei-iran-supreme-leader). *Axios*. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
6. Clawson, Patrick; Nadimi, Farzin (5 March 2026). "What Kind of Supreme Leader Would Mojtaba Khamenei Be?" (https://web.archive.org/web/20260309001045/https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/what-kind-supreme-leader-would-mojtaba-khamenei-be). The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Archived from the original (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/what-kind-supreme-leader-would-mojtaba-khamenei-be) on 9 March 2026. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
7. "The Man in the Shadow: Mojtaba Khamenei" (https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2009/07/the-man-in-the-shadow-mojtaba-khamenei.html). *PBS*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20171109183057/http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2009/07/the-man-in-the-shadow-mojtaba-khamenei.html) from the original on 9 November 2017. Retrieved 5 September 2017.
8. Khalaji, Mehdi (February 2012). "Supreme Succession. Who Will Lead Post-Khamenei Iran?" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140416184302/http://www.metransparent.com/IMG/pdf/mehdi_khalaji_supreme_succession.pdf) (PDF). *The Washington Institute*. Washington, DC. Archived from the original (http://www.metransparent.com/IMG/pdf/mehdi_khalaji_supreme_succession.pdf) (Policy Focus (No. 117)) on 16 April 2014.
9. "تسنیم – فوری/ آیت‌الله سید مجتبی خامنه‌ای رهبر ایران شد" (https://www.tasnimnews.ir/fa/news/1404/12/18/3535299/%D9%81%D9%88%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D8%A2%DB%8C%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%87-%D8%B3%DB%8C%D8%AF-%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%AA%D8%A8%DB%8C-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%86%D9%87-%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%B1%D9%87%D8%A8%D8%B1-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B4%D8%AF). *خبرگزاری تسنیم | Tasnim* (in Persian).

10. Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Africa and the Middle East – Facts on File, Incorporated, 2009, p. 79
11. "Iran and the Caucasus – The Triumph of Pragmatism over Ideology – Centre for World Dialogue" (https://web.archive.org/web/20130927184152/http://www.worlddialogue.org/content.php?id=150). *worlddialogue.org*. Archived from the original (http://www.worlddialogue.org/content.php?id=150) on 27 September 2013. Retrieved 1 January 2014.
12. Institute of Contemporary History Studies of Iran
13. "Mojtaba Khamenei: The Supreme Leader's Gatekeeper & Guardian" (https://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/mojtaba-khamenei-supreme-leaders-gatekeeper-guardian). *UANI*.
14. "Archived copy" (https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/who-is-mojtaba-khamenei-the-second-son-of-irans-supreme-leader-7046798). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20251115041256/https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/who-is-mojtaba-khamenei-the-second-son-of-irans-supreme-leader-7046798) from the original on 15 November 2025. Retrieved 3 March 2026.
15. Mujeeb, Shaik (2 March 2026). "Mojtaba Khamenei: The Most Powerful Man You've Never Seen in Iran's Politics" (https://brieflynews.in/mojtaba-khamenei/).
16. Who Is Mojtaba Khamenei, a Son and Possible Successor of Iran's Supreme Leader? (https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/03/world/middleeast/mojtaba-khamenei-iran-successor-who.html) nytimes.com
17. "حلقه گردان حبیب؛ تیم مجتبی خامنه‌ای" (https://www.radiofarda.com/a/30119166.html). *رادیو فردا* (in Persian). Retrieved 9 March 2026.
18. https://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/1033/ (https://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/1033/). {{cite web}}: Missing or empty |title= (help)
19. Diba, Bahman Aghai (4 March 2011). "Supreme Leader of Iran and His Successor" (http://www.payvand.com/news/11/mar/1038.html). *Payvand*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20140416183241/http://www.payvand.com/news/11/mar/1038.html) from the original on 16 April 2014. Retrieved 18 June 2013.
20. "IRAN: EXPAT SOURCE'S INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON MOJTABA KHAMENEI, AND THIS SOURCE'S PITCH FOR USG FUNDS" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/london-wikileaks/8304719/IRAN-EXPAT-SOURCES-INFORMATION-AND-VIEWS-ON-MOJTABA-KHAMENEI-AND-THIS-SOURCES-PITCH-FOR-USG-FUNDS.html). *The Telegraph*. 4 February 2011. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180622222036/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/london-wikileaks/8304719/IRAN-EXPAT-SOURCES-INFORMATION-AND-VIEWS-ON-MOJTABA-KHAMENEI-AND-THIS-SOURCES-PITCH-FOR-USG-FUNDS.html) from the original on 22 June 2018. Retrieved 3 April 2018.
21. Borger, Julian (8 July 2009). "Khamenei's son takes control of Iran's anti-protest militia" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia). *The Guardian*. ISSN 0261-3077 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0261-3077). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170225180842/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia) from the original on 25 February 2017. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
22. "Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's new supreme leader amid war?" (https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2026/3/8/who-is-mojtaba-khamenei-a-contender-for-irans-leadership-amid-war). *Al Jazeera*. 8 March 2026. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
23. Borger, Julian (8 July 2009). "Khamenei's son takes control of Iran's anti-protest militia" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia). *The Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20130907001755/http://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia) from the original on 7 September 2013. Retrieved 11 July 2009.
24. "Leaked Document Reveals Questions About Role Of Khamenei's Son" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202303226935). *Iran International*. 22 March 2023. Retrieved 9 March 2026.

25. Slavin, Barbara (20 September 2022). "The Supreme Leader is still alive. But when he does eventually die, how will succession play out?" (https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/the-supreme-leader-is-still-alive-but-when-he-does-eventually-die-how-will-succession-play-out). *Atlantic Council*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20221028132340/https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/the-supreme-leader-is-still-alive-but-when-he-does-eventually-die-how-will-succession-play-out/) from the original on 28 October 2022. Retrieved 26 December 2022.
26. Julian Borger (22 June 2009). "Mojtaba Khamenei: gatekeeper to Iran's supreme leader" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jun/22/mojtaba-khamenei-iran-protest). *The Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20130906195533/http://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jun/22/mojtaba-khamenei-iran-protest) from the original on 6 September 2013. Retrieved 22 June 2009.
27. "یک زمزمه قدیمی؛ نماینده مجلس خبرگان: خامنه‌ای با رهبری پسرش مجتبی مخالفت کرده است" (https://parsi.euronews.com/2024/02/28/khameneis-opposition-to-the-selection-of-his-son-as-a-candidate-for-the-future-leadership) [An old whisper; Member of the Assembly of Experts: Khamenei has opposed the leadership of his son, Mojtaba]. *Euronews* (in Persian). 28 February 2024. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20240522063244/https://parsi.euronews.com/2024/02/28/khameneis-opposition-to-the-selection-of-his-son-as-a-candidate-for-the-future-leadership) from the original on 22 May 2024. Retrieved 29 May 2024.
28. Takeyh, Ray (23 February 2016). "The Myth of a Meaningful Vote in Iran" (https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/02/iran-parliamentary-elections-assembly-of-experts/470580/). *The Atlantic*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170216170320/https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/02/iran-parliamentary-elections-assembly-of-experts/470580/) from the original on 16 February 2017. Retrieved 3 February 2017.
29. "Anomalies in Iran's Assembly of Experts Election" (http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/anomalies-and-results-from-irans-assembly-of-experts-election). Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160817025352/http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/anomalies-and-results-from-irans-assembly-of-experts-election) from the original on 17 August 2016. Retrieved 3 February 2017.
30. "Background: Role of the Supreme Leader" (https://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/supreme-leader/background-role-of-supreme-leader). *UANI*. Retrieved 4 March 2026.
31. "Q&A: What are the religious qualifications for Khamenei's successor as Supreme Leader?" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202501283013). *Iran International*. 28 January 2025. Retrieved 4 March 2026.
32. "Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, frontrunner to be Iran's supreme leader?" (https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/who-is-mojtaba-khamenei-frontrunner-be-irans-supreme-leader-2026-03-04/). *Reuters*. 4 March 2026. Retrieved 5 March 2026.
33. Mojtahedi, Negar (4 March 2026). "From shadow to power: who is Mojtaba Khamenei?" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603032731). *Iran International*. Retrieved 4 March 2026.
34. "Essential Media Insight" (https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c200guu1). *BBC Monitoring*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200329182446/https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c200guu1) from the original on 29 March 2020. Retrieved 16 June 2025.
35. Cunningham, Erin; Salim, Mustafa; Kennicott, Philip; Jeong, Andrew; Cheeseman, Abbie; Sands, Leo; Hernandez, Angie Orellana; Westfall, Sammy; Yang, Joshua (20 March 2019). "Clues to the identity of Iran's next supreme leader in the back alleys of a holy city" (https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/clues-to-the-identity-of-irans-next-supreme-leader-in-the-back-alleys-of-a-holy-city/2019/03/20/a96f857e-2a2d-11e9-906e-9d55b6451eb4_story.html). *The Washington Post*. ISSN 0190-8286 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0190-8286). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20201108001129/https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/clues-to-the-identity-of-irans-next-supreme-leader-in-the-back-alleys-of-a-holy-city/2019/03/20/a96f857e-2a2d-11e9-906e-9d55b6451eb4_story.html) from the original on 8 November 2020. Retrieved 16 June 2025.

36. "Why Mojtaba Khamenei is unlikely to be Iran's next supreme leader" (https://www.arabnews.com/node/2533001/amp). *Arab News*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20240619130639/https://www.arabnews.com/node/2533001/amp) from the original on 19 June 2024. Retrieved 10 November 2025.
37. Solomon, Erika (20 May 2024). "After Raisi's Death, Speculation Over Succession Turns to Ayatollah's Son" (https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/20/world/middleeast/iran-raisi-death-supreme-leader.html). *The New York Times*. ISSN 0362-4331 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0362-4331). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20240806123935/https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/20/world/middleeast/iran-raisi-death-supreme-leader.html) from the original on 6 August 2024. Retrieved 21 May 2024.
38. Yan, Sophia; Makoii, Akhtar (20 May 2024). "Iranian president's helicopter crash death clears field for Khamenei's son" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2024/05/20/iranian-presidents-crash-death-clears-field-khamenei-son/). *The Telegraph*. ISSN 0307-1235 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0307-1235). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20240806123932/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2024/05/20/iranian-presidents-crash-death-clears-field-khamenei-son/) from the original on 6 August 2024. Retrieved 21 May 2024.
39. "Why Khamenei is unlikely to pick his son to succeed him as Iran's supreme leader" (https://mei.edu/publications/why-khamenei-unlikely-pick-his-son-succeed-him-irans-supreme-leader). *Middle East Institute*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20250619174656/https://mei.edu/publications/why-khamenei-unlikely-pick-his-son-succeed-him-irans-supreme-leader) from the original on 19 June 2025. Retrieved 16 June 2025.
40. Mojtahedi, Negar (4 March 2026). "From shadow to power: who is Mojtaba Khamenei?" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603032731). *Iran International*.
41. "Son of Ayatollah expected to take over father's role as Iran's supreme leader" (https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/iran-ayatollah-mojtaba-khamenei-successor-b2931574.html). *The Independent*. 4 March 2026. Retrieved 4 March 2026.
42. Wintour, Patrick (4 March 2026). "Ali Khamenei's son Mojtaba favourite to succeed him as Iran's supreme leader" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/04/mojtaba-khamenei-son-of-former-supreme-leader-tipped-to-become-irans-next-head-of-state). *The Guardian*. ISSN 0261-3077 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0261-3077). Retrieved 5 March 2026.
43. "Iran crisis: Ayatollah's son Mojtaba Khamenei elected as successor of slain Supreme Leader - report" (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/iran-crisis-ayatollahs-son-mojtaba-khamenei-emerges-as-front-runner-to-succeed-slain-supreme-leader/articleshow/128997689.cms). *The Times of India*. 4 March 2026. ISSN 0971-8257 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0971-8257). Retrieved 5 March 2026.
44. Hoyle, Craig (2 March 2026). "Trump says top candidates to take over Iran but were killed in initial strikes" (https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/trump-iran-leaders-killed-strikes-b2929957.html). *The Independent*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20260304115343/https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/trump-iran-leaders-killed-strikes-b2929957.html) from the original on 4 March 2026. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
45. Fleishman, Jeffrey (25 June 2009). "Iran supreme leader's son seen as power broker with big ambitions" (http://articles.latimes.com/2009/jun/25/world/fg-iran-khamenei-son25). *Los Angeles Times*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20161108024331/http://articles.latimes.com/2009/jun/25/world/fg-iran-khamenei-son25) from the original on 8 November 2016. Retrieved 2 February 2017.
46. Parpanchi, Mehdi (4 March 2026). "A wartime succession in Iran: why the IRGC backed Mojtaba Khamenei" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603048311). *Iran International*. Retrieved 5 March 2026.
47. "Guards push fast Mojtaba Khamenei announcement amid dissent over hereditary rule" (https://www.iranintl.com:443/en/202603052337). *Iran International*. 5 March 2026. Wikidata Q138576524. Archived (https://megalodon.jp/2026-0305-1812-49/https://www.iranintl.com:443/en/202603052337) from the original on 5 March 2026.

48. "Guards push fast Mojtaba Khamenei announcement amid dissent over hereditary rule" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603052337). *Iran International*. 5 March 2026. Retrieved 5 March 2026.
49. Zachary Basu; Barak Ravid (5 March 2026). "Exclusive: Trump says he must be involved in picking Iran's next leader" (https://www.axios.com/2026/03/05/iran-leader-trump-khamenei). *Axios*. Retrieved 5 March 2026.
50. "Trump acknowledges Mojtaba Khamenei likely successor, says unacceptable – Axios" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603055751). *Iran International*. 5 March 2026. Retrieved 6 March 2026.
51. "Iranian Council of Experts Elects Mojtaba Khamenei as New Supreme Leader" (https://easternherald.com/2026/03/09/mojtaba-khamenei-elected-iran-supreme-leader/). *The Eastern Herald*. 9 March 2026. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
52. Tondo, Lorenzo (8 March 2026). "Ali Khamenei's son Mojtaba chosen as Iran's new supreme leader" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/08/ali-khameneis-son-mojtaba-chosen-as-irans-new-supreme-leader). *The Guardian*. ISSN 0261-3077 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0261-3077). Retrieved 8 March 2026.
53. "Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's new supreme leader amid war?" (https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2026/3/8/who-is-mojtaba-khamenei-a-contender-for-irans-leadership-amid-war). *Al Jazeera*. 8 March 2026. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
54. Walker, Josephine (8 March 2026). "Iran's next supreme leader: Khamenei's hardline son Mojtaba" (https://www.axios.com/2026/03/08/mojtaba-khamenei-iran-supreme-leader). *Axios*. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
55. Turani, Behrouz (8 March 2026). "Mojtaba Khamenei: The shadow prince who rose to became Iran's supreme leader" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202603083539). *www.iranintl.com*. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
56. Dagres, Holly (11 July 2023). "Why Khamenei's son is not the next radical modernizer in the Middle East" (https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/mojtaba-khamenei-iran-reform/). *Atlantic Council*. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
57. Ozalp, Mehmet (5 March 2026). "Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, Iran's presumed next supreme leader? And would he bring change – or more brutal suppression?" (https://theconversation.com/who-is-mojtaba-khamenei-irans-presumed-next-supreme-leader-and-would-he-bring-change-or-more-brutal-suppression-277483). *The Conversation*. Retrieved 5 March 2026.
58. Smith, Benedict (4 March 2026). "Mojtaba Khamenei: Ayatollah's ruthless son set to take over regime" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/us/news/2026/03/04/mojtaba-khamenei-ayatollah-son-iran-regime/). *The Telegraph*. ISSN 0307-1235 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0307-1235). Retrieved 5 March 2026.
59. Jeffrey Fleishman (25 June 2009). "Iran supreme leader's son seen as power broker with big ambitions" (http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-khamenei-son25-2009jun25,0,6876741.story). *Los Angeles Times*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20090626020925/http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-khamenei-son25-2009jun25,0,6876741.story) from the original on 26 June 2009. Retrieved 25 June 2009.
60. Jeffrey Fleishman (25 June 2009). "Khamenei's son: Iran experts say he plays key role in protest crackdown" (https://web.archive.org/web/20090628033047/http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-tc-nw-iran-khamenei-0624-062jun25,0,2224856.story). *Chicago Tribune*. Archived from the original (http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-tc-nw-iran-khamenei-0624-062jun25,0,2224856.story) on 28 June 2009. Retrieved 4 March 2026.

61. وله, دویچه (25 February 2012). "درخواست" مجتبی خامنه‌ای از میرحسین موسوی" (https://www.dw.com/fa-ir/%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D9%85%D8%AC%D8%AA%D8%A8%DB%8C-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D9%85%DB%8C%D8%B1%D8%AD%D8%B3%DB%8C%D9%86-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%88%DB%8C/a-15770033). *dw.com* (in Persian).
62. "فیلم: تظاهران امروز – مجتبی بمیری، رهبری را نبینی ۲" (https://web.archive.org/web/20211215080142/https://www.peykeiran.com/Content.aspx?ID=3522) [2 Clips: Today's Demonstrators – Mojtaba may you Die, and not see the leadership]. *Peykeiran* (in Persian). 9 July 2009. Archived from the original (http://www.peykeiran.com/Content.aspx?ID=3522) on 15 December 2021.
63. "گاردین: «بسیج در کنترل پسر خامنه‌ای است»" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/07/090708_si_ir88_khamenei_basij.shtml) [The Guardian: 'Basij is under the control of Khamenei's son']. *BBC Persian*. 9 July 2009. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20090711211355/http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2009/07/090708_si_ir88_khamenei_basij.shtml) from the original on 11 July 2009. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
64. "Khamenei's son takes control of Iran's anti-protest militia" (http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia). *The Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20090723051636/http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia) from the original on 23 July 2009. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
65. Shahir Shahidsaless (19 June 2009). "The IRGC shakes its iron fist" (https://web.archive.org/web/20090621204752/http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/KF19Ak04.html). *Asia Times Online*. Archived from the original on 21 June 2009. Retrieved 25 June 2009.
66. "Series of incriminations rips through Iran's conservative camp" (https://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/01/15/188461.html). Al Arabiya. 15 January 2012. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20161001192301/https://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/01/15/188461.html) from the original on 1 October 2016. Retrieved 1 February 2017.
67. "What Kind of Supreme Leader Would Mojtaba Khamenei Be? | The Washington Institute" (https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/what-kind-supreme-leader-would-mojtaba-khamenei-be). *www.washingtoninstitute.org*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20260309001045/https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/what-kind-supreme-leader-would-mojtaba-khamenei-be) from the original on 9 March 2026. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
68. "Iran's Political Elite" (https://web.archive.org/web/20130823181417/http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/irans-political-elite). *United States Institute of Peace*. 11 October 2010. Archived from the original (http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/irans-political-elite) on 23 August 2013. Retrieved 28 July 2013.
69. Tait, Robert (26 February 2008). "Ahmadinejad favors his relatives" (https://www.theguardian.com/news/blog/2008/feb/26/ahmadinejadfavourhisrelativ1). *The Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20130901173111/http://www.theguardian.com/news/blog/2008/feb/26/ahmadinejadfavourhisrelativ1) from the original on 1 September 2013. Retrieved 24 June 2009.
70. Bazoobandi, Sara (11 January 2013). "The 2013 presidential election in Iran" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150925215736/http://www.mei.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Download-Insight-88-Bazoobandi-HERE.pdf) (PDF). *MEI Insight*. **88**. Archived from the original (http://www.mei.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Download-Insight-88-Bazoobandi-HERE.pdf) (PDF) on 25 September 2015. Retrieved 18 February 2013.
71. Chandelier, Alain (8 March 2026). "Explainer: Who is Mojtaba Khamenei and how did he succeed his father?" (https://www.euronews.com/2026/03/08/explainer-who-is-mojtaba-khamenei-and-how-did-he-succeed-his-father). *Euronews*. Retrieved 9 March 2026.

72. Azar, Masoud (9 March 2026). "مجتبی خامنه‌ای، رهبر جدید جمهوری اسلامی کیست؟" (https://www.bbc.com/dari/articles/cpd8pg29qw1o) [Who is Mojtaba Khamenei, the new leader of the Islamic Republic?]. *BBC Dari*. Retrieved 9 March 2026. "Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, the father of Mojtaba Khamenei's wife, recounts a quote from Ali Khamenei about the marriage proposal and wedding ceremony of his daughter in the year 1999…"
73. "Expat source's information and views on Mojtaba Khamenei" (https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/london-wikileaks/8304719/IRAN-EXPAT-SOURCES-INFORMATION-AND-VIEWS-ON-MOJTABA-KHAMENEI-AND-THIS-SOURCES-PITCH-FOR-USG-FUNDS.html). *The Telegraph*. 4 February 2011. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20180622222036/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/london-wikileaks/8304719/IRAN-EXPAT-SOURCES-INFORMATION-AND-VIEWS-ON-MOJTABA-KHAMENEI-AND-THIS-SOURCES-PITCH-FOR-USG-FUNDS.html) from the original on 22 June 2018. Retrieved 18 February 2013.
74. Fassihi, Farnaz (3 March 2026). "Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's Son Emerges as Leading Choice to Be His Successor" (https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/03/world/middleeast/iran-mojtaba-khamenei-successor.html). *The New York Times*. ISSN 0362-4331 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0362-4331). Retrieved 4 March 2026.
75. "Daughter and grandchild of Iran's Khamenei killed in US-Israeli strikes, state media says" (https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/daughter-grandchild-irans-khamenei-killed-us-israeli-strikes-state-media-says-2026-03-01/). *Reuters*. 28 February 2026. Retrieved 9 March 2026.
76. "A son of Iran's late supreme leader is a possible candidate to replace his father as war rages" (https://www.arabnews.com/node/2635219/middle-east). *Arab News*. 4 March 2026. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
77. Borger, Julian (8 July 2009). "Khamenei's son takes control of Iran's anti-protest militia" (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia). *The Guardian*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170225180842/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/08/khamenei-son-controls-iran-militia) from the original on 25 February 2017. Retrieved 3 February 2017.
78. Bartenstein, Ben (28 January 2026). "How the Son of Iran's Supreme Leader Built a Global Property Empire" (https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2026-01-28/how-iran-supreme-leader-khamenei-s-son-built-a-global-property-empire). *Bloomberg*. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
79. "Tehran leaders wiring huge sums of money out of Iran, US Treasury says" (https://www.iranintl.com/en/202601156396). *Iran International*. 15 January 2026. Retrieved 8 March 2026.
80. "Treasury Designates Supreme Leader of Iran's Inner Circle Responsible for Advancing Regime's Domestic and Foreign Oppression" (https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm824). *U.S. Department of the Treasury*. 23 December 2025. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200718163111/https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm824) from the original on 18 July 2020. Retrieved 3 March 2026.
81. "Attachments" (https://web.archive.org/web/20230727125844/https://community.apan.org/cfs-file/__key/telligent-evolution-components-attachments/13-15195-00-00-00-21-25-29/OEA_2D00_5-Iran-April-2010.pdf?forcedownload=true) (PDF). *Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN)*. Archived from the original (https://community.apan.org/cfs-file/__key/telligent-evolution-components-attachments/13-15195-00-00-00-21-25-29/OEA_2D00_5-Iran-April-2010.pdf?forcedownload=true) (PDF) on 27 July 2023. Retrieved 3 March 2026.

External links

Iran portal

Biography portal

- Media related to Mojtaba Khamenei at Wikimedia Commons

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mojtaba_Khamenei&oldid=1342515738"